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Bangalore Mirror

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Do we need landfills that contaminate groundwater, cause fire, bad odour or a sustainable solution for garbage woes?

LAY OFF THE LANDFILL

Tender floated for landfills at four locations

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) has floated a short term tender inviting bidders for establishment and development of new landfill sites at four locations around Bengaluru, and bio-mining at Mavallipura landfill. It is expected to cost the BSWML more than Rs 142 crore.

Though establishment of landfills is no solution for garbage woes, the authorities - earlier the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and now the BSWML - are keen to establish landfills instead of finding technical solutions to the garbage woes.

Landfills are known for contaminating groundwater, causing fires, and bad odor. There were massive

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

TOM FISK/PEXELS

> “Bengaluru will be surrounded by a ring of landfills in the near future
> — Sandhya Narayan, SWM Round Table

EBB & FLOW

Stop gnawing at storm water drains please!

PAGE 7

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2 THINGS TO DO

01 Classical wonders

Don't miss the chance to watch premier Odissi and Bharatanatyam performances tomorrow in Jayanagar. The 7th edition of the Annual Dance Festival, Shishirachhanda 2023, is being presented by the Adyasha Foundation, a premier Odissi institution. **Where: JSS Auditorium, Jayanagar**
When: November 11; 5 pm onwards

02 Support artisans

Tamaala presents lamps and lights made from earthen elements by 60+ rural and tribal artisans from Jodhpur, Bhuj, Villupuram, Ramanagara, Belgaum, Udupi, and cooperatives in Bengaluru rural. You can also get your hands on Pichwai paintings from Rajasthan, Gond paintings of tribals from Dindori forests in MP, and more.
Where: Studio Tamaala, JP Nagar
When: until November 13; 11 am–8 pm (Tuesdays closed)

International honour

Dr Dilip Kumar, President of the Indian Nursing Council, was conferred with the International Global Leader Award for his contributions to the global nursing field. The award ceremony took place at a palace in Thailand on October 16 and was given away by Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn. Dr Dilip Kumar, hailing from Tummi village in Chitradurga district, received a cash prize of Rs 22 lakh along with a plaque commemorating his achievements spanning over four decades. -BMB

Deepawali ready

A local artisan preparing Deepawali lamps in Pottery Town; festival of lights to be celebrated on November 12-13

PIC: KAUSHIK JN

Breathing in danger: 'Air pollution affects heart'

City docs warn that air pollution can cause cardiac problems; they say that ultrafine particles can directly enter bloodstream, causing increased tendency for clotting

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As Deepavali approaches, concerns about deteriorating air quality grow. This issue has already been observed in Delhi, where air quality has significantly worsened. Health experts warn that air pollution can contribute to cardiac problems. Jayadeva Institute of Cardiology Director Dr CN Manjunath said, "While many people associate air pollution with lung-related issues, what's less known is its connection to cardiac problems. Through various studies, we have observed that approximately 10% of patients seeking treatment have been exposed to severe air pollution. This includes individuals like auto, bus, and car drivers, as well as traffic police officers."

Adding to this, Dr Pradeep Kumar D (Senior Consultant - Cardiology, Manipal Hospital, Old Airport Road, and Yeshwantpur) said, "Air pollution has a strong association with cardiopulmonary disease and lung cancer. There are a lot of observational trials that have shown an increase in particulate matter of 10 micrograms per metre cube increases the risk of cardiopulmonary disease by almost 2 to 4 per cent, both in the acute setting and in the chronic setting. In acute phases, air pollution causes an increased tendency to clot, increased arrhythmias, vasoconstriction, and increased atherosclerosis. So, all these can lead to heart attacks."

Experts have observed that approximately 10% of patients seeking treatment have been exposed to severe air pollution

It can cause plaque formation, and if somebody has already had a plaque, there can be plaque rupture, plaque disruption, and the formation of clots within the coronary arteries and heart attacks, he informed.

Air pollution consists of particulate matter. Experts say that very small, ultrafine particles can directly enter the bloodstream and cause an increased tendency for clotting or coagulation. It can cause inflammation and heart attacks.

"All these particles can happen due to increased vehicular pollution as well as due to construction activities, fires, or agricultural products that are being burned, like what happened in Delhi. During specific seasons, particularly in winter when smog levels are higher, there is a definite rise in the number of heart attacks, especially in the northern regions. It not only causes heart attacks but also worsens heart failure, arrhythmias, and pulmonary conditions like COPD and bronchial asthma," he explained.

Furthermore, Dr Sreekanth B Shetty (Senior Consultant and Head - Interventional Cardiology, Sakra World Hospital) said, "An increase in the density of particulate matter (PM2.5) in the atmosphere has been consistently linked to both short-term and long-term rises in cardiovascular issues, including heart attacks and strokes. This risk is notably amplified for individuals residing near bustling roads, highways, and construction sites. Those with pre-existing conditions such as diabetes, high cholesterol, or advanced age face increased vulnerability when exposed to areas with elevated PM2.5 concentrations."

> **"While many people associate air pollution with lung-related issues, what's less known is its connection to cardiac problems**
> –Dr CN Manjunath

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has established a safe threshold of 10 $\mu g/m^3$ for cardiovascular health. However, PM2.5 levels in India can soar as high as 250 $\mu g/m^3$, he added.

He said that one could look at measures like using face masks to reduce inhalation of PM2.5 and installing air purifiers at home to improve indoor air quality.

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Road to eternal rest in deep disrepair

BBMP's delayed repairs, rain woes plague Jeevanahalli Road

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The road connecting Jeevanahalli Junction to the Christian and Hindu burial grounds, designed to facilitate a smooth and hassle-free journey for departed souls, remains in a deplorable state. The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) continues to delay essential repairs on various pretexts. Recent heavy rains have further deteriorated the road, rendering it nearly impassable for private ambulance and BBMP hearse vehicles.

Bangalore Mirror published a story – A bumpy ride to final destination – on July 24 narrating how not only drivers of private ambulance vehicles and BBMP hearse vehicles but also thousands of motorists who commute on this road reach Old Madras Road and other areas.

Whenever it rains, this stretch on this road becomes a small pond due to the potholes and craters. It is very difficult to use this road during monsoon. I expected the BBMP authorities to fill up potholes last month, but they did nothing," said Seshadri N, a motorist from Jeevanahalli, adding that he has to depend on this road to reach Old Madras Road and proceed towards KR Puram.

Many motorists and auto-rickshaw drivers are finding it tough to use this road. "I refused to ferry passengers on this road because of potholes. It will benefit not only auto rickshaw drivers but also motorists if the BBMP authorities take measures to fill up potholes," said Ashok K, an auto rickshaw driver.

Demanding the BBMP authorities to asphalt the entire road for the benefit of thousands of motorists who use this road on a daily basis, Bharathinagar Residents' Forum president N S Ravi has said that he came across two people injured when they fell from their vehicles due to the potholes. "The BBMP has money to asphalt roads at other locations, but it has no funds to asphalt this road that leads to the final destination of Hindus and Christians. I am planning to stage a protest if the BBMP authorities fail to fill up potholes on this road within a week," said N S Ravi.

The road connecting Jeevanahalli Junction to the Christian and Hindu burial grounds, remains in a deplorable state

> **Whenever it rains, this stretch on this road becomes a small pond due to the potholes and craters. It is very difficult to use this road during monsoon**
> –Seshadri N, commuter

Condemning the BBMP authorities for neglecting this road, Nagaraj N, a resident of Jeevanahalli, has said water logging happens under the railway underpass, thus causing a lot of inconvenience to pedestrians and motorists. "I want the BBMP authorities to ensure no water logging at the railway underpass," said Nagaraj.

Bangalore Mirror

Unasphalted stretch to burial grounds in Jeevanahalli filled with craters that jolt living daylights out of hearse drivers; garbage dumped in area adds to misery

A BUMPY RIDE EVEN TO FINAL DESTINATION

No funds to asphalt road, just fill up craters, say citizens

BM report on 24 July about how thousands of motorists use this road to reach ORR and other areas

However, the BBMP executive engineer was not available for comment.

Overflowing trouble: Neeladri road woes

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Neeladri Road residents are lodging complaints about apartments, shops, and PG accommodations discharging sewage and sewage treatment plant (STP) effluents onto the road. This issue has transformed the road into a hazardous and unsanitary commute for those residing in the area.

Despite the absence of rain, the road frequently carries murky water, further exacerbating the problem. The root cause of this dilemma lies in the absence of proper underground drainage (UGD) connections.

"STP water flows onto the road from multiple apartments. The STP water is let out at midnight, and with no proper drainage system, it floods the roads. To walk the road, pedestrians have to walk on the footpath. The whole area leaves a terrible stench as the sewage mixed with STP water is released. Residents pay a higher tax in many parts of Bengaluru, but basic issues are ignored. The situation has become frequent over the past year due to more buildings sprouting in the area. We want the government to take action against the culprits," said Pankaj, a resident.

Neeladri road locals raise concerns over contaminated water discharge

Residents have been grappling with this issue since they arrived in the locality. Still, the situation has worsened over the past year due to the rapid increase of apartments and PG accommodations.

Another resident, Jagath, recalled how when he first moved to the locality, road flooding was infrequent. "When I moved, here was no road, and the flooding was less frequent. Now, the road floods with STP water and sewage released by apartments, PGs, and commercial establishments. During rains, the road is inaccessible and ridden with potholes. We have complained to the panchayat officials, but there has been no action." Experts suspect that apartments are releasing STP water because their STPs are not functioning properly. Ram Prasad, a SWM expert, shared, "The release of STP water by apartments is seen across Bengaluru. The reasoning could be that the STP was defunct when the society took over from the builders. With a defunct STP, apartments don't have any other option but to throw it away. Housing societies must check the functional capabilities of STP. Apartments also fail to run STPs due to their high operational costs or not having a skilled operator."

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Tree trouble
Nandini Layout

The recent felling of a fully grown tree in front of a newly constructed building in Jai Maruthi Nagar, Nandini Layout (behind Indira Canteen), has caused significant inconvenience to people.

Rusty bridge
Benniganahalli

The Benniganahalli Metro railway station's tin factory footbridge is severely rusted and unsafe, endangering senior citizens. Immediate repairs are necessary.

Road ruckus
Kanakapura Road

Daily chaos prevails on Kanakapura Road near the vegetable market. Urgent traffic police monitoring is essential to address this issue.

Workday jamming

As IT companies move ahead with more work-from-office days, cops request staggered timings to avoid congestion

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With IT companies mandating their employees to work from an office at least three days a week, regular commuters in areas around tech parks are weary of an increase in traffic congestion as the number of private vehicles on the road may witness an increase.

Wipro, the nation's fourth largest software service firm, has informed its employees about implementing a compulsory hybrid work policy beginning from November 15. Employees will now have to work from an office at least thrice weekly. Prior to this, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) mandated employees to work from the office five days a week, and Infosys set the policy for ten days a month. While companies claim that the change aims to enhance teamwork as it facilitates face-to-face interactions, helping resolve issues easily, employees are worried about commuting to their workplaces.

MN Anucheth, Joint Commissioner of Police, Traffic, told Bangalore Mirror that they have suggested the IT companies and parks to have staggered timings. "However, this is completely voluntary. IT parks can encourage employees to use public transport or provide a shared transport facility. Right now, even at a 50% capacity, the roads are clogged. If the capacity rises to 60-65%, the situation cannot be handled," he said.

With the entire Purple Line of the Metro thrown open to the public, IT employees can choose to travel to the KR Pura Metro station to reach the Outer Ring Road (ORR), which houses many tech parks and is infamous for traffic congestion. Soon after the Metro services on the stretch began, Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy launched a total of 37 Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) feeder buses from the KR Pura Metro station, forming connectivity till the Central Silk Board. Employees who work at ITPL, Hoodi and Whitefield areas have benefitted most from the metro line, as it provides a direct connection.

> **"IT parks can encourage employees to use public transport or provide a shared transport facility** –MN Anucheth, Joint Commissioner of Police

An employee from Accenture, being called back to work from the office three days a week, said, "Since the Metro services are now operational till Whitefield, a three-day work-from-office policy is not as daunting. This is also because I reside in Rajajinagar Nagar and live at a walkable distance from the metro station. Prior to this, it would take me close to two hours to reach my workplace through different modes of transport." She added that a two-day work-from-office policy would be preferable as it would provide employees enough time for face-to-face interactions and team building, depending on the job one is designated for.

On the other hand, regular metro users are worried about a rise in footfall as the metro trains are running at maximum capacity during peak hours. Since Challaghatta-Whitefield (the Purple line) was launched, allowing a distance of 43.49 km with 37 stations in-between to be covered in 76 minutes at an end-to-end fare of Rs 60, the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has witnessed record-breaking ridership. On the third day since being thrown open to the public, the corporation recorded a ridership of more than 7 lakh.

Kalpana C, a government employee who uses the metro to travel from Attiguppe to Vidhana Soudha, said, "The crowd during peak hours is unmanageable. If IT employees choose to travel through the metro to follow the policy, the number of people will certainly increase once again. The BMRCL will have to take measures to run trains at a much lesser frequency immediately."

It's reserved: B'luru will not go thirsty

State government decides to reserve 24 TMC of water for Bengaluru until next monsoon

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With a poor monsoon and consequently reduced storage at the Cauvery belt reservoirs, there's a looming concern over Bengaluru's water supply. Several areas of the city have already experienced decreased water supplies. Now, the state government has taken the decision to reserve 24 TMC of water for Bengaluru until the next monsoon.

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, who holds the Bengaluru in-charge portfolio, said, "In a landmark judgement in 2018, the Supreme Court ruled that 24 TMC of water could be reserved for Bengaluru's drinking water. However, no action was taken in this regard until now. Previously, the allocation was lower. By utilising 6 TMC of water, we will now reserve 24 TMC of water." When asked if Tamil Nadu might object to this, he stressed that providing drinking water to Bengaluru is a priority and is done in accordance with Supreme Court guidelines.

There's a growing demand to initiate the Mekedatu project. Shivakumar explained, "We will soon request permission for the Mekedatu project before the Cauvery authority and the Supreme Court. This project will prove beneficial in both distress and excess rainfall scenarios. We have been instructed to release 300 to 400 TMC of water to Tamil Nadu. However, the inflows into the Cauvery belt reservoirs have drastically reduced."

A BWSSB official said, "With poor rainfall in the Cauvery catchment area resulting in lower water storage capacity, concerns over water supply in Bengaluru City have resurfaced. Reports suggest that Bengaluru will require 2.42 TMC of water each month starting in January 2024. New stages of Cauvery water supply have been introduced to accommodate Bengaluru's growing population, considering the city's demographics. Currently, water from the Cauvery is being supplied to Bengaluru in four stages. The fifth stage involves extending the water supply to 110 villages newly integrated into Bengaluru City."

Govt will soon request permission for the Mekedatu project

"With poor rainfall in the Cauvery catchment area resulting in lower water storage capacity, concerns over water supply in B'luru have resurfaced –a BWSSB official

Although this project commenced in January 2020, it is still progressing and is now expected to be finalised by December 2023." With this expansion, Bengaluru's monthly water requirement will increase to 2.42 TMC.

"Presently, we supply 1,450 MLD of water to Bengaluru daily. However, this rate can be maintained only if there is a flow of 700 cusecs of water at Shiva Anaicut. Currently, to fulfil Bengaluru's water needs, we require 1.6 TMC of water every month. However, this requirement will surge to 2.42 TMC in January 2024 when 110 villages are added to the Cauvery water supply network in the fifth stage. Consequently, we request prioritised water storage in Kabini and KRS to meet Bengaluru's drinking water needs," added the official.

Meanwhile, after the recent rains, Bengaluru's average rainfall has now become 4% in excess compared to the earlier 48% deficit. According to the weather update, several places in the state have experienced moderate rainfall, with Karwar receiving the maximum of 9 cm and Bengaluru receiving 3 cm of rainfall.

A Prasad, a scientist at the India Meteorological Department (IMD), explained, "Under the influence of Tuesday's cyclonic circulation over the southeast and adjoining east-central Arabian Sea, a low-pressure area has formed over the east-central Arabian Sea on Wednesday. Additionally, a cyclonic circulation lies over the Comorin area in the lower tropospheric levels. Under this influence, isolated heavy rainfall is likely over the coastal, north, and south interior of Karnataka on Thursday."

A yellow alert was issued for Bengaluru on Wednesday. The weather in the city may be cloudy on Thursday, with the possibility of heavy rainfall in a few places. However, the rain is expected to decrease post-Friday, and there are no alerts, he added.

Why landfill isn't the solution

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

protests by residents of villages in the vicinity of landfills such as Mandur, Mavallipura, and Chikkamangala near Doddaballapur against dumping waste.

The BBMP and elected representatives had to struggle a lot to convince the agitating villagers to allow dumping of waste at these landfills till alternative arrangements are made.

However, the BSWML authorities have floated a tender for the establishment and development of four landfills. Environmentalists are up in arms against setting up new landfills instead of finding sustainable solutions for the garbage problems.

"It seems the BSWML is in a hurry to convert empty quarries into landfills. I am of the opinion that the development of landfills is not a solution. Bengaluru will be surrounded by a ring of landfills in the near future. I am not for the establishment of landfills around Bengaluru," said Sandhya Narayan of Solid Waste Management Round Table.

TOM FISK/PEXELS

BSWML floats tender for developing 4 landfills

As per the tender notification, the BSWML wants to establish a landfill at Baiyyappanahalli in Byatarayanapura assembly constituency at an estimated cost of Rs 19.99 crore. The work has to be completed in three months; another landfill at Bagalur in Byatarayanapura assembly constituency at an estimated cost of Rs 39.42 crore and the work has to be completed in six months. The BSWML plans to establish landfills at Kaadagrahara and Kannur in Mahadevapura assembly constituency at an estimated cost of Rs 39.11 crore and Rs 19.99 crore respectively. The work of the landfill at Kaadagrahara has to be completed in five months and the work at the Kannur landfill has to be completed in two months.

Expressing concern over setting up landfills without finding technical solutions to garbage problems, Shobha Bhat of Usire Foundation said establishment of landfills would not be a solution. "The authorities concerned have to take measures to find solutions to garbage problems," said Bhat.

However, BSWML chief engineer was not available for comment.

Tusker dies due to electrocution

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A male wild elephant aged between 13 and 15 years was electrocuted and found dead near the Haruvanahalli village in Chikkamagaluru. The carcass of the elephant was discovered by the forest officials. As per the reports from the veterinarian, the elephant died due to electrocution. According to Karnataka Forest Department (KFD) officials, the elephant died after it came into contact with electric wire fences installed illegally on farm land.

The elephants being electrocuted due to illegal fencing of electric wires on farmland is a tragic and distressing issue that highlights the devastating consequences of human-wildlife conflict. In many regions, farmers use electric fences to protect their crops and properties from wild animals, including elephants. However, when these fences are set up haphazardly or illegally, they pose a severe danger to these creatures.

The elephant died after it came into contact with electric wire fences

According to the Assistant Forest Conservator (ACF) of Bhadra Tiger Reserve, Lakkavalli Division, Veeresh Gowda, the farm land is close to the Gurupura forest, and the forest is adjacent to the Bhadra Tiger Reserve. Since the wild animals keep moving around during the night, the elephant from the Gurupura forest tried to enter the farm land, and it was electrocuted. "The cultivation is carried out illegally, and it is on unauthorised farm land. In order to protect their crops, they had fenced the land with electric wires," he said.

An FIR was registered at Lakkavalli police station in Chikkamagaluru district. On November 6, the elephant had come to farmland in search of food. The incident was highlighted the following day. After the incident, the accused was said to have removed fencing so that it did not come to the notice of the forest officials. "When the officers reached the location, we could not find any wires, and the accused stated that they had not installed any electric wires. However, the elephant did not have any injuries, and only after the vet checked did it come to notice that the elephant was electrocuted," added Gowda.

Gowda pointed out that it is important for the electricity department to carry out regular surveys and check for such illegal electricity connections that are being used for the interest of man and wildlife.

Encroachment mapped: Leave rajakaluves alone

Tahsildar asks for map, detailed report on encroachments at several localities that leave them flooded after rain

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File photo of a rajakaluve in KR Puram

After complaints from local residents regarding encroachment of rajakaluves by various properties, the tahsildar office, Bengaluru East taluk, Krishnarajpura, has called upon the sub tahsildar and revenue officials to investigate the claims, prepare a map and submit a report. The encroachments were alleged in Varthur Hobbali, Doddakannelli, Chikkanahalli, Hadosiddapura, Chikkanayakahalli, Halanayakanahalli. The residents had filed an RTI last year, and they got the report on the number of encroachments on rajakaluves in these areas.

These areas have reported flooding after a spell of rain, so a resident Arif Mudal filed the RTI. However though the survey was carried out last year by the tahsildar office showing the encroachments, no actions were taken. After months now, an order has been released by the tahsildar office again to carry out investigation of the encroached areas and prepare a detailed report.

Arif said, "In 2021, I had raised a complaint about the rajakaluve and the survey was done after six-seven months. The former tahsildar had done the survey and mapped a few of the properties encroaching on rajakaluves. The tahsildar had written a letter to other departments to look at the encroachment saying that our claim was valid. In 2022, we got a list of the survey numbers that are encroached on and the officials started to analyse how to proceed.

However after that nothing happened. When we enquired with the panchyat or revenue officials, they did not respond. We even met revenue department minister Krishna Byre Gowda and submitted a request for the survey done but no action was taken. Recently he gave orders that if rajakaluves are encroached upon, these obstacles may be removed so that flooding issues can be resolved."

> **"These natural drainage channels play a crucial role in managing excess water, when they are obstructed, it leads to flooding** – Arif Mudal, RTI applicant

A week ago, Arif received the order copy about carrying out mapping of the encroached rajakaluves. "I have started to get threatening calls with people asking me to take my complaints back. But we shall fight on until the encroachments are removed so that flooding is prevented. The encroachments are not present in just one area but at multiple localities. The multiple survey numbers have been listed in the order that needs to be checked and mapped. We are hoping that action is taken immediately."

Flooding woes

Arif added that one of the most immediate and severe consequences of rajakaluve encroachment is the increased risk of flooding during heavy rains. "These natural drainage channels play a crucial role in managing excess water, and when they are obstructed, it leads to waterlogging and flooding, which can damage properties and disrupt daily life for residents. The encroachment of rajakaluve has multifaceted negative impacts, affecting the environment, public safety, and the well-being of local residents. It is essential to address these issues promptly and efficiently to prevent further damage," he said.

Foreign job horror: Trapped, forced to do illegal tasks

| Sridhar Vivan
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The shocking case of a 27-year-old, who had a harrowing experience after being offered an overseas job, has put the spotlight on such scams. Ashok, a resident of Magundi in Chikkamagaluru, recently escaped a dubious situation in Cambodia.

Ashok said he had applied for a visa via agents. "There are many agents in India who are scouting for youngsters like me by promising them jobs," he said.

Ashok had met the agents near his home town and they assured him of lucrative data entry jobs in Cambodia. "The process required me to pay Rs 3.5 lakh, with half the amount up front and the rest to be deducted from my salary," he explained.

On May 18, 2023, he set off for Cambodia. He was assigned the role of a data encoder in a Chinese company. "When I reached Cambodia, another agent from Karnataka welcomed me. He took me to a Chinese company which had an interview," said Ashok. All was professional in the beginning. It was only after he found himself involved in questionable activities, that he sensed trouble. He was asked to create fake profiles on dating apps and entice users using the photo of a woman. He was to pose as a woman to trap them on social media and extort them. Additionally, he was tasked with luring people into investing in fraudulent companies through another app.

"This became unbearable for me. But when I protested to the agent, they told me I had been sold off. I had given my passport to the agent who had given it to the Chinese company that had now confiscated it," he said. "Subsequently, I was confined to a dark room. Escaping this became possible only through the intervention of the NRI Forum, the Ministry of External Affairs and the Indian embassy," Ashok said. According to Ashok, thousands of Indians are still trapped in this company's clutches.

Dr. Arati Krishna, Deputy Chairperson of the Non-Resident Indian Forum, Karnataka, said, "We urge people to be careful. Before applying for a foreign job, they need to do a thorough check and leave their details with us so that we can help them."

Caught on cam: Triple riders vandalise car

In a shocking incident, miscreants triple riding on a two-wheeler have been caught on video breaking the mirror of a moving car near Sarakki signal in the city.

ThirdEye, a YouTuber from the city, who captures illegal moves made by drivers and submits the videos to the Bangalore Traffic Police (BTP) took to X and posted the video of the incident.

The handle also noted that the two-wheeler involved in the incident has over Rs 19,000 pending in fines. "Number plate is a little blurry but I hope this is enough to track them down as the bike and colour is a similar match. Also, attaching a violation picture caught on ITMS. Please verify," wrote ThirdEye, while tagging traffic police handles.

In the said video, one can see the third person on the two-wheeler swinging his hand to break the mirror of a moving red sedan. The KS Layout traffic police have acted immediately on the matter and have traced the vehicle. "Hope they will be charged on the relevant section of MVA or IPC," the user wrote, along with a picture of the seized vehicle.

Meanwhile, DCP, South, Traffic, also took to X and confirmed that action was being taken against the accused. Many citizens have questioned the frequency of such incidents in the city.

Netizens have consistently been posting videos of road rage and incidents of attempted robbery from car passengers. Many of them have complained about being threatened with stones and being stopped abruptly.

They have urged the police department to bring in strict measures to stop miscreants from vandalising vehicles. — BMB

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I, Tharaka Ram Chowdary R/o No.303, 4th flr, Surya hillview Apts, Anjaneya temple Rd, 4th cross, Vidyanagar, Ballari 583104 have changed my name to Tharakram Chowdary Bhimaneni affidavit Dt.08/11/2023 notary Harisha G, Bengaluru

I, Vijay Krishna G N R/o No.10/503, Out house, Ashwathakatte road, V V Puram, Bengaluru 560004 have changed my minor daughter name from Sanika to Sanika Gudipadu affidavit Dt.08/11/2023 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I Satyanarayana.P R/o 16/17 1st floor netaji nagar 2nd main kempapura hebbal Bangalore 560024. Have changed my minor son's name From Adarsh Penugondla to Adarsh Satyanarayana Penugondla. (Adarsh P S)

I Aditya Penugondla s/o Satyanarayana P, R/o 16/17 1st floor netaji nagar 2nd main kempapura hebbal Bangalore 560024. Have changed my Name to Aditya Satyanarayana Penugondla. (Aditya P S)

I,VINAY Ayachit, R/o #34 Unnathi Enclave Taponagara Chikkagubbi Kothanur Bengaluru-560077 have changed my daughter's name (minor)from Sayujya to Sayujya Vinay Ayachit.

I, Renukaiah Channappa S/o Channappa No 350, Puttayyanapalya, Tavarekere Post Bangalore Urban, Ramanagar,- 562130 have changed my name to Renukaiah for all purposes.

I Abhijit Shirke S/O, Anant Sadashiv Shirke R/o A-002,slv Central Park, Bidare Agrahara, Bandapura Road, Bengaluru-560049, Karnataka. have changed my name to Abhijit Anant Shirke.

I, Abumokarram S/O Mohammad Idris # 12 Shivajinagar Bangalore-51 have changed my name to Abu Mokarram for all purposes.

I Shaik Farhana R/o #310, Paras Mallige Apts, E-City, Bengaluru-560100, have changed my name to SAKSHI LEKHWANI

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All you need to know about...

From soda to alcohol

Higher risk
The trend among younger children to frequently drink caffeinated soda may indicate higher risk of alcohol consumption in the future, new research suggests.

Impulsive behaviour
In a study of over 2,000 US children, aged between just nine to 10, those who reported drinking caffeinated soda daily were found a year later twice as likely to state they had sipped alcohol.
Published in the peer-reviewed journal Substance Use & Misuse, the results of the study also demonstrate that daily drinkers of caffeinated soda were more impulsive and have a poorer working memory.

In young kids
Although strong associations between caffeinated beverage consumption and future substance use have been well documented in adolescents and adults, the findings are the first to demonstrate similar results in young children.

Toxicological effect on the brain
"Our findings suggest that daily consumption of caffeinated soda in children is predictive of substance use in the near future. One possible explanation is that the substances contained in caffeinated soda (caffeine and sugar) could induce a toxicological effect on the brain, making the individual more sensitive to the reinforcing effects of harder drugs like alcohol," said lead author Mina Kwon, from the Department of Psychology at Seoul National University.

Distinct trait
To test cognitive functions, the children were given a series of tasks to do while their brain activity was recorded.Interestingly, children who regularly drank caffeinated soda also showed distinct brain activity compared to their non-drinking peers. —IANS

REAL DEAL

AI-generated faces look just like real ones – but evidence shows your brain can tell the difference

For a while, limitations in technology meant that animators and researchers were only capable of creating human-like faces which seemed a little "off".

Films like 2004's The Polar Express made some viewers uneasy because the characters' faces looked almost human but not quite, and so they fell into what we call the "uncanny valley". This is when artificial faces (or robots more generally) look increasingly human and get very close to resembling us while still showing signs of being artificial, they elicit discomfort or even revulsion.

Recent advances in artificial intelligence (AI) technology mean that we have well and truly crossed the valley. Synthetic faces now appear as real as genuine ones – if not more so.

You may have come across the website ThisPersonDoesNotExist.com. By repeatedly visiting the page, you can generate an unlimited number of images of faces, none of which belong to real people.

Instead, these synthetic faces are created by an AI algorithm known as a "generative adversarial network". This is made up of two neural networks – essentially, computer models inspired by how neurons are connected in the brain.

These networks compete with each other. One generates new, plausible images (faces, in this case), while the other tries to discriminate real images from fake ones. Through a feedback loop, the generator learns to produce increasingly convincing images that the discriminator fails to spot as fake.

By using a large set of real photographs, along with the images produced by the generator, the system eventually learns to produce realistic, new examples of faces. The final generator is what's producing the images you can see on the website.

Researchers have found that people shown synthetic faces mixed in with real ones struggle to tell the difference. Participants classified the faces correctly only 48.2% of the time according to one study – slightly worse than random guessing (which would give 50% accuracy). They also rated synthetic faces as more trustworthy than real ones.

Another study found that synthetic faces were rated as more real than photographs of actual faces. This might be because these fake faces often look a little more average or typical than real ones (which tend to be a bit more distinctive) as a result of the generator learning that such faces are better at fooling the discriminator.

Unconscious awareness in the brain

In another recent study, researchers in Australia delved deeper into our ability to tell the difference between real and synthetic faces. In their first experiment, online participants failed to distinguish between the two types of faces, and again perceived the synthetic faces as more real than the real ones.

However, their second experiment seemed to tell a different story. A new sample of participants, this time in the lab, were asked to wear electroencephalography (EEG) caps on their heads. The electrodes fitted to these caps then measured the electrical activity in the participants' brains.

During the task, different faces were presented in a rapid sequence, and while this was happening, participants were asked to press a button whenever a white circle (shown on top of the faces) turned red. This ensured participants were focused on the centre of the screen where the images were being shown.

The results from the EEG test showed that brain activity differed when people were looking at real versus synthetic faces. This difference was apparent at around 170 milliseconds after the faces first appeared onscreen.

This N170 component of the electrical signal, as it's known, is sensitive to the configuration of faces (that is, the layout and distances between facial features). So one explanation might be that synthetic faces were perceived as subtly different to real faces in terms of the distances between features like the eyes, nose, and mouth.

These results suggest there is a distinction between how we behave and what our brains "know". On the one hand, participants couldn't consciously tell synthetic faces from real ones, but on the other, their brains could recognise the difference, as revealed by their EEG activity.

Although it may be surprising to think that our brains have access to information that is outside of our conscious awareness, there are many examples of this in psychology.

For instance, blindsight is a condition typically found in people who are blind in one half of their visual field. Despite this, they may be able to respond to objects placed on their blind side that they deny being consciously aware of.

Studies have also shown that our attention is drawn to images of naked people, even when we're unaware of seeing them. And we've all heard of the concept of subliminal advertising, although lab experiments fail to support the idea that it actually works.

Now that synthetic faces are so easy to produce, and are as convincing as real photographs, we should be concerned about fake online profiles, fake news, and so on. Such advances in AI technology will have serious implications in the near future – there must be safeguards and other measures put in place to mitigate these dangers.

Perhaps the cues that our brains seem to use when spotting synthetic faces will prove useful in developing ways to identify these fakes in the coming years.

(By Robin Kramer, University of Lincoln, The Conversation)

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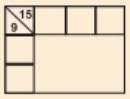
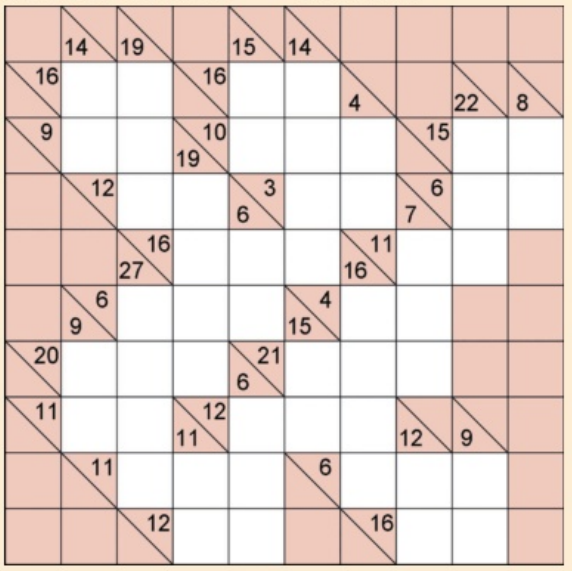
FARNAZ

Kakuro

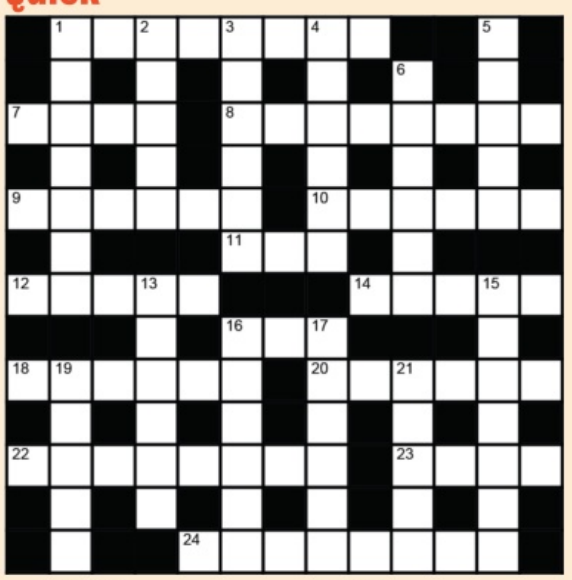
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 A soldier or an infantryman (3-2-3)
7 Clearing of the throat (4)
8 Employed, engaged or hired (8)
9 State of equilibrium (6)
10 Closer (6)
11 Drag (3)
12 ___ a cab : calls a taxi? (5)
14 Graf rival (5)
16 Type of beer (3)
18 Port in SW Russia (6)
20 Jeers at (6)
22 Gambling game (8)
23 Diplomacy (4)
24 Trod roughly underfoot (8)

DOWN

1 M in M G Road (7)
2 Deadens (5)
3 Woods (6)
4 Performing on stage (6)
5 At that place (5)
6 Stream of abuse (6)
13 Small (6)
15 Obliterated, wiped out or negated (7)
16 Embodiment or incarnation (6)
17 Regard highly (6)
19 Atmospheric gas (5)
21 In base 8 (5)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: M EQUALS G

HDBKB NR VBOBK BVLCMD HNQB, CVYBRR WLC'KB RB-KONVM NH.

Linemaro

I am sorry. I don't think we have met. I wouldn't forget a pretty face like that

Mindchow

A simple grateful thought turned heavenward is the most perfect prayer

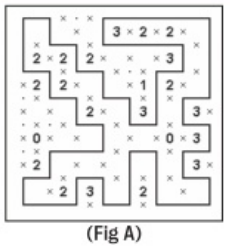
Joke of the day

I ran three miles today. Finally, I said, "Lady, take your purse."

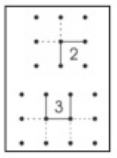
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)



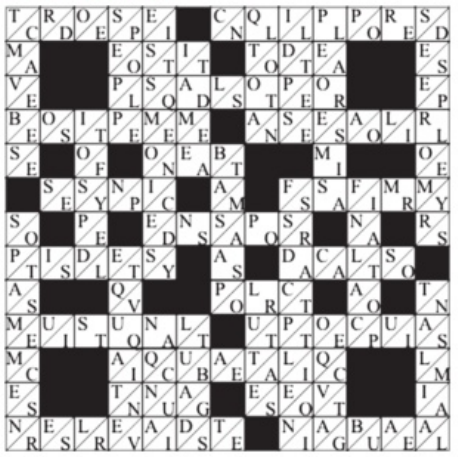
(Fig B) Not Allowed

How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

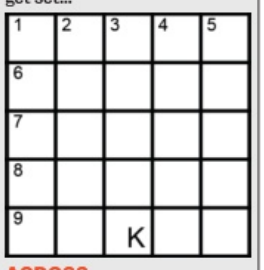
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Scram; 6 Lo the; 7 Aider; 8 Clear; 9 Liken

DOWN

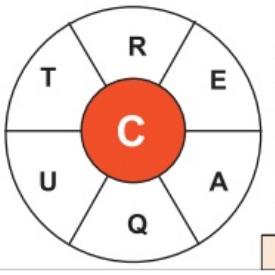
1 Lichi; 2 An err; 3 A calk; 4 Old me; 5 Ester

Mensapuzzle

Multiply the lowest even number in the grid by the highest odd number.

14	26	28
91	18	89
57	177	22
189	16	7

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

14 Average; 16 Good; 18 Outstanding

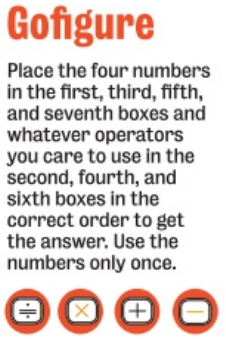
SudokuChallenge

	4	6	1			7		
							3	
	1		6	5	9			
8			3	9		2		6
6		1		4	5			3
			9	8	4		7	
	7							
		4			6	3	8	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Easy = 6

1 2 2 2

Medium = 3

4 7 9 9

Hard = 20

2 6 7 3

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Gas can is larger. 2. Arm is moved. 3. Woman's collar is smaller. 4. Tree is moved. 5. Rear window is different. 6. Number of miles on sign is different.

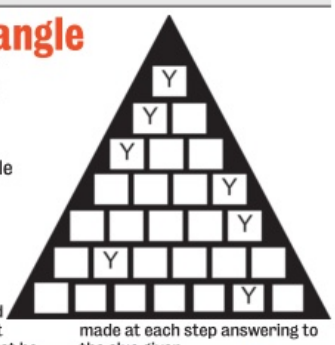
Riddler

Complete the words below using three consecutive letters in alphabetical order, e.g. _ _ A _ U S; add A B and C it would become ABACUS.

1. _ _ _ R _ E S,
2. D O _ I _ _,
3. _ R A _ I _,
4. _ O U _ _ T,
5. _ _ A _ U E,
6. _ A Y _ A _.

Alpha triangle

1 Second last letter
2 Old fashioned you
3 Affirmative
4 Get a glimpse of
5 Poems or verse
6 Nearsighted people
7 Gives work to



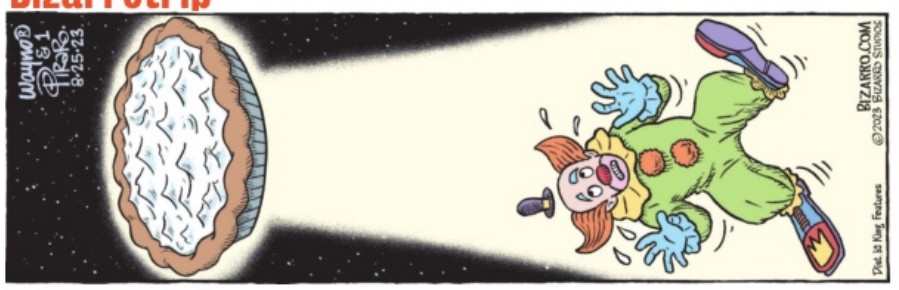
Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

Bizarrotrip



Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

Crankshaft

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may feel negative due to sleeplessness last night, which may make you feel dull. This feeling may reflect in your way of working. It is advised to postpone making investments in your work, as you may be a victim of conspiracy. You are advised to keep an eye on opponents and rivals. Lovebirds are advised to be patient to avoid unnecessary arguments.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today is not a good day for you, as you may be plagued by negative thoughts and impatience. Your arrogance may hinder you from making difficult decisions, and your life may seem to come to a halt. Seeking the blessings of your elders can help you overcome these challenges. You should avoid making investments in dead assets, and lovebirds should avoid discussing worthless topics.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you may encounter negative vibrations around you, which may make you unhappy. It's recommended to avoid investing in worthless assets. Your friends may not be very supportive today, so don't expect too much help from them, as it may further upset you. Follow your intuition before making important decisions today.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you may be blessed by the moon. You may receive a significant order with the help of overseas contacts. You may face moments when you feel anxious, but you'll somehow manage to control your anxiety. Students are likely to study their subjects in-depth. Investors are advised to make long-term investments for fruitful gains.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you are blessed by the moon and may receive some good news regarding work and business. Your domestic life will be full of joy, so it's advised to avoid arguments about insignificant matters. Overexcitement might test your patience. You can make important decisions regarding investments in assets, and students are advised to stay focused on their studies.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you may successfully implement business plans with the support of your subordinates. You may be involved in social or family gatherings, which can boost your network. Short business-related travels are on the horizon, which may bring future benefits.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may be busy at work and face difficulties in completing tasks, which may leave you feeling upset. However, with blessings from elders and gurus, you can overcome this messy situation. Due to your workload, you may experience mental tiredness and struggle to find time for your family. Nevertheless, your siblings are likely to support you and help maintain domestic harmony.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today is a good day for your work, and you may perform well. Your boss may entrust you with more responsibilities, potentially leading to promotions. Your rivals and opponents are now under control. You may lend money to invest in your assets and plan investments for your kids' future.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today is a good day, and your financial health is likely to be strong. You may benefit from past investments and exercise control over your spending on unnecessary items, which can boost your savings. Lovebirds are advised to maintain polite conversations with their partners to avoid conflicts.

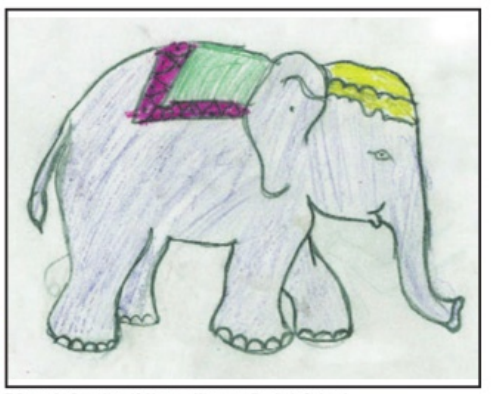
Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, things are under control, and the crunch from the last few days may be over. You'll feel calm and cool, with a good focus on your goals and enjoyment in your work. Disputes in partnerships may be settled, and property-related litigation may be resolved. You may also have some romantic moments with loved ones.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may feel very dull, which can make you lazy and careless. You are likely to be unfocused at work, and impatience may negatively affect you. Concerns about the health of kids and your spouse may upset you. It's advisable to avoid making investments in assets, and lovebirds should avoid arguments about family matters.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you may be occupied with issues related to siblings and relatives. You may plan to start a new venture with the help of your siblings and network. You're likely to receive an order that can boost your family business, and your network can help you complete your tasks successfully. There may be some smart gains with a little effort.

KIDZONE

Rohith R, 11 Years, Immanuel High School



T Preethi Roselin, 12 Years, Nisarga English School

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SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
3² ÷ 3 (2) ÷ (1/4) ÷ 3
27 ÷ 3 (2) ÷ (1/4) ÷ 3
27 × 1/3 (2) ÷ (1/4) ÷ 3
(27/3) (2) ÷ (1/4) ÷ 3
9 (2) ÷ (1/4) ÷ 3
18 ÷ 1/4 ÷ 3
18 × 4/1 ÷ 3
72/1 ÷ 3
72/1 × 1/3
72/3 = 24

FAST FIVE

C	R	A	M	S
H	E	L	O	T
I	R	A	D	E
L	A	C	E	R
I	N	K	L	E

RIDDLER
1. Turves, 2. Domino, 3. Arabic, 4. Fought, 5. Opaque, 6. Layman.

STRIKE OUT

R	E	L	E	A	S	E	N	A	B	A	L			
E			T	U	G	S	O	T			I			
M		A	Q	U	A	T	I	C		M				
M	U	T	U	A	L		U	T	O	P	I	A		
A		Q			O	R	C		O		T			
T	I	D	E	S		S		A	C	T	S			
S		E		E	N	S	O	R		N		S		
S	Y	N	C		A		F	A	I	R	Y			
S		O		N	E	B		I			O			
E	S	T	E	E	M		A	S	S	A	I	L		
V		P	S	A	L	T	E	R			P			
A		O	S	T		O	D	E			E			
C	R	E	P	E		C	L	I	P	P	E	D		

QUICK

												E		
												N		
R	O	U	L	E	T	T	E		T	A	C	T		
R	O	S	T	O	V		S	C	O	F	F	S		
Z			T		A		T		C		A			
H	A	I	L	S			S	E	L	E	S			
			I		A	L	E				F			
		M			T	U	G		D					
S	T	A	S	I	S		N	E	A	R	E	R		
	A		B		E		I		R		R			
A	H	E	M		R	E	T	A	I	N	E	D		
A		U		O		C		T		H				
M	A	N	O	F	W	A	R				T			

MENSA PUZZLE
2646 (14 × 189).

QUOTE UNCODE
There is never enough time, unless you're serving it.

BULL'S EYE
acre, acute, care, carl, cater, crate, cruet, curate, cure, curl, cute, outer, ecru, race, RACQUET, react, trace, truce

SUDOKU

2	4	6	1	3	8	7	5	9
9	8	5	4	2	7	6	3	1
7	1	3	6	5	9	4	2	8
8	5	7	3	9	1	2	4	6
4	3	9	8	6	2	5	1	7
6	2	1	7	4	5	8	9	3
3	6	2	9	8	4	1	7	5
5	7	8	2	1	3	9	6	4
1	9	4	5	7	6	3	8	2

ALPHA TRIANGLE
acne, acute, care, carl, cater, crate, cruet, curate, cure, curl, cute, outer, race, react, trace, truce

GO FIGURE
Easy
2 + 2 × 1 + 2 = 6
Medium
9 + 7 – 9 – 4 = 3
Hard
7 + 6 – 3 × 2 = 20

LOOP

KAKURO

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SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Gift to daughter

ST Somasekhar did not have it easy, but he wants to make sure his daughter has all that life has to offer. Somasekhar began his career as a tea seller in Gandhi Nagar but now he is the owner of two canteens that offer food at an affordable price. Now, Somasekhar graduated as a producer for the film Na Kolikke Ranga, in which his daughter Rajeshwari plays the female lead.

"I came to Bengaluru for a livelihood more than a decade ago. I wanted to provide an opportunity to my daughter Rajeswari to act in a Kannada movie. My dream was to see her on the silver screen. So, I decided to invest all my savings to bankroll this movie," Somasekhar says.

Anand aka Master Anand plays the lead in the movie while veteran actress Bhavya plays his mother. "My other ambition was to convince Power Star Puneeth Rajkumar to render a song for this movie. My joy knew no bounds when he agreed. The release of this movie got delayed due to covid. Now, we are planning to release it at theaters on November 10. We also have convinced well-known playback singer Kailash Kher to sing a song on Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar," the producer said.

Meditative mood

Sam spends reflective moments in Bhutan

Samantha Ruth Prabhu, who is on a break currently, has been visiting various places across the country and outside. She recently shared a new picture of herself from Bhutan.

In the photo, Samantha is seen sitting in a meditative position in what looks like a temple in Bhutan. Dressed in a brown sweatshirt and black pants, she is seen peacefully meditating. She captioned the post, 'reflect'. meditation.

Fans impressed with actor finding her inner peace by practising meditation on a break from work

As soon as she shared the post, likes and comments poured in from all sides. While one fan wrote, 'Finding her inner peace', another one added, 'You are doing awesome work for people'. A fan also commented, 'May the inner peace you've perceived be within you always and forever Sam. May it keep radiating all positivity to your way. God bless you always Sam'.

Samantha Ruth Prabhu is presently taking a hiatus from her acting career as she contends with an autoimmune condition known as Myositis. In a recent development, the actress offered a sneak peek into her Cryotherapy session, during which she was observed standing in a chamber-like apparatus, engaged in meditation.

On the work front, Samantha was last seen in 'Kushi' which received mixed reviews from all sides. Next, she will be seen in the Indian version of 'Citadel' which will also star Varun Dhawan in the lead role. The series is being directed by Ran and DK.

—ETimes

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